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	First Named Inventor	Newman
	Art Unit	2144
	Examiner Name	Thanh T. Nguyen
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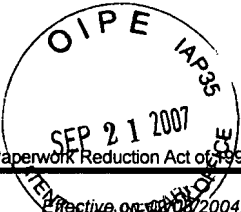
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# FEE TRANSMITTAL

## For FY 2006

☐ Applicant Claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27**Complete if Known**

Application Number	09/732,023
Filing Date	12/08/2000
First Named Inventor	Newman
Examiner Name	Thanh T. Nguyen
Art Unit	2144
Attorney Docket No.	A0988

**TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT** (\$ 500.00)**METHOD OF PAYMENT** (check all that apply)☐ Check ☐ Credit Card ☐ Money Order ☐ None ☐ Other (please identify): \_\_\_\_\_☒ Deposit Account Deposit Account Number: **24-0037** Deposit Account Name: **Xerox Corporation**

For the above-identified deposit account, the Director is hereby authorized to: (check all that apply)

☒ Charge fee(s) indicated below ☐ Charges fee(s) indicated below, except for the filing fee☒ Charge any additional fee(s) or underpayments of fee(s) under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17 ☒ Credit any overpayments**WARNING:** Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.**FEE CALCULATION****1. BASIC FILING, SEARCH, AND EXAMINATION FEES**

Application Type	FILING FEES		SEARCH FEES		EXAMINATION FEES		Fees Paid (\$)
	Fee (\$)	Small Entity Fee (\$)	Fee (\$)	Small Entity Fee (\$)	Fee (\$)	Small Entity Fee (\$)	
Utility	300	150	500	250	200	100	
Design	200	100	100	50	130	65	
Plant	200	100	300	150	160	80	
Reissue	300	150	500	250	600	300	
Provisional	200	100	0	0	0	0	

**2. EXCESS CLAIM FEES**

Fee Description	Small Entity Fee (\$)	Small Entity Fee (\$)
Each claim over 20 (including Reissues)	50	25
Each independent claim over 3 (including Reissues)	200	100
Multiple dependent claims	360	180

<b>Total Claims</b>	<b>Extra Claims</b>	<b>Fee (\$)</b>	<b>Fee Paid (\$)</b>
0	- 20 or HP = 0	x \$50.00	= \$ 0.00

HP = highest number of total claims paid for, if greater than 20.

<b>Indep. Claims</b>	<b>Extra Claims</b>	<b>Fee (\$)</b>	<b>Fee Paid (\$)</b>
0	- 3 or HP = 0	x \$200.00	= \$ 0.00

HP = highest number of independent claims paid for, if greater than 3.

**3. APPLICATION SIZE FEE**

If the specification and drawings exceed 100 sheets of paper (excluding electronically filed sequence or computer listings under 37 CFR 1.52(e)), the application size fee due is \$250 (\$125 for small entity) for each additional 50 sheets or fraction thereof. See 35 U.S.C. 41 (a)(1)(G) and 37 CFR 1.16(s).

<b>Total Sheets</b>	<b>Extra Sheets</b>	<b>Number of each additional 50 or fraction thereof</b>	<b>Fee (\$)</b>	<b>Fee Paid (\$)</b>
0	- 100 = 0	/ 50 = 0	(round up to a whole number) x \$250.00	= \$ 0.00

**4. OTHER FEE(S)**

Non-English Specification, \$130 fee (no small entity discount)

Other (e.g., late filing surcharge): Appeal Brief Filing fee: \$500.00**500.00****SUBMITTED BY**

Signature		Registration No. 40297 (Attorney/Agent)	Telephone (206) 381-3900
Name (Print/Type)	Patrick J. S. Inouye	Date	September 18, 2007

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.136. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 30 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

5      *In re* Application of )  
         Paula S. Newman ) Group Art Unit: 2144  
         )  
         Serial No. 09/732,023 ) Examiner:  
         ) Tammy T. Nguyen  
         Filed: December 8, 2000 )  
10        )  
         For: Method And System For Mail Folder Displays)

**APPEAL BRIEF**

15 Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

20 BRIEF ON BEHALF OF PAULA S. NEWMAN:

Appellant appeals from the Final Office action mailed on April 18, 2007, in which currently pending Claims 1-35 stand finally rejected. Appellant filed a Notice of Appeal via facsimile on July 18, 2007.

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**1. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST**

The real party in interest is assignee Xerox Corporation, a New York Corporation, located at 800 Long Ridge Road, P.O. Box 1600, Stamford, CT 06904-1600.

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**2. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

A Notice of Appeal was filed on July 18, 2007. There are no appeals or interferences known to Appellant, Appellant's legal counsel, or assignee, which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

10

**3. STATUS OF CLAIMS**

Claims 1-35 are rejected and under appeal. An Appendix setting forth the Claims involved in the appeal is included as Section 8 of this Appeal Brief.

15

**4. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS**

Claims 7, 12, 13, 15, 19, 23-25, and 28 were amended subsequent to final rejection in the Office action mailed on April 18, 2007. The claim amendments were entered for purposes of appeal in the Advisory Action mailed on July 6, 2007.

20

**5. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER**

**A. Independent Claim 1**

Claim 1 defines a method for displaying an e-mail collection. The e-mail collection includes a plurality of e-mail messages assigned to one or more categories and subcategories. A display specification to specify a manner in which e-mail messages assigned into each of the categories and subcategories are to be displayed is defined (p. 4, lines 17-19; FIGURE 2). A plurality of category-specific arrangements of e-mail messages in differing levels of granularity that are

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specific to the categories and subcategories to which the e-mail messages are assigned in the display specification is specified (p. 4, lines 19-22). Further, a plurality of display-specific arrangements of e-mail messages in differing levels of granularity that are specific to the display to which the e-mail are assigned in the display specification is specified (p. 4, lines 22-29). Still further, a plurality of layouts of the category-specific arrangement and the display-specific arrangements that are specific to the display upon which the e-mail messages are displayed in the display specification is specified (p. 5, lines 12-15). Each of the e-mail messages is displayed in accordance with the display specification using the category-specific arrangement and the display-specific arrangement of the category or subcategory to which the e-mail message is assigned and using the layout for the display upon which the e-mail message is displayed (p. 6, lines 14-16; FIGURES 4-6).

**B. Independent Claim 8**

Claim 8 defines a computer controlled display system for displaying an e-mail collection. The e-mail collection including a plurality of e-mail messages assigned to one or more categories and subcategories. A display specification is defined to specify a manner in which e-mail messages assigned into each of the categories and subcategories are to be displayed in a top-level representation (p. 4, lines 17-19; FIGURE 2). The display specification specifies a plurality of category-specific arrangements of e-mail messages in differing levels of granularity that are specific to the categories and subcategories to which the e-mail messages are assigned (p. 4, lines 19-21). Further, the display specification specifies a plurality of display-specific arrangements of e-mail messages in differing levels of granularity that are specific to the display to which the e-mail messages are assigned (p. 4, lines 22-29). Still further, the display specification specifies a plurality of layouts of the category-specific arrangements and the display-specific arrangements that are specific to the display upon which the e-mail messages are displayed (p. 5, lines 12-15). A display is configured for presenting the e-mail messages on a viewing area of the display (p. 6, lines 14-16; FIGURES 4-6). A processor is adapted to control the display to display each of

the e-mail messages in accordance with the display specification using the category-specific arrangement and the display-specific arrangement for the category or subcategory to which the e-mail message is assigned, and using the layout for the display upon which the e-mail message is displayed (p. 6, lines 14-16; FIGURES 4-6).

**C. Independent Claim 16**

Claim 16 defines an information storage media including information that displays an e-mail collection. The e-mail collection includes a plurality of e-mail messages assigned to one or more categories and subcategories. The information includes a display specification to specify a manner in which e-mail messages assigned into each of the categories and subcategories are to be displayed in a top-level representation (p. 4, lines 17-19; FIGURE 2). The information specifies a plurality of category-specific arrangements of e-mail messages in differing levels of granularity that are specific to the categories and subcategories to which the e-mail messages are assigned (p. 4, lines 19-21). Further, the information specifies a plurality of display-specific arrangements of e-mail messages in differing levels of granularity that are specific to the display to which the e-mail messages are assigned (p. 4, lines 22-29). Still further, the information specifies a plurality of layouts of the category-specific arrangements and the display-specific arrangements that are specific to the display upon which the e-mail messages are displayed (p. 5, lines 12-15). The information displays each of the e-mail messages in accordance with the display specification using the category-specific arrangement and the display-specific arrangement for the category or subcategory to which the e-mail message is assigned, and using the layout for the display upon which the e-mail message is displayed (p. 6, lines 14-16; FIGURES 4-6).

**6. GROUNDS FOR REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL**

**A. Issue I**

Whether Claims 1, 2, 5, 7-9, 12, 14-17, 20, 22-28, 30-33, and 35 properly stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent



No. 6,832,244 to Raghunandan in view of Bill Dyszel, Microsoft Outlook 2000 For Windows For Dummies, pp. 84-85, 156, 158 (Wiley Publishing, Inc. 1999) (“Dyszel”). The rejected claims do not stand or fall together. Accordingly, the rejections of Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 23, 26-28, and 30 (Group I); 8, 9, 12, 14, 15, 24,  
5 31-33 and 35 (Group II); 16, 17, 22 and 25 (Group III) are argued separately.

**B. Issue II**

Whether Claims 3, 4, 6, 10, 11, 13, 18, 19, 21, 29, and 34 properly stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Raghunandan, in view of Dyszel, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,170,011 to Macleod Beck et  
10 al. (“Macleod Beck”).

**7. ARGUMENT**

**A. U.S. Patent No. 6,832,244 (“Raghunandan”)**

Raghunandan discloses a graphical e-mail content analyzer and prioritizer in an e-mail system that identifies or prioritizes received e-mail messages and  
15 displays the parameter values of the e-mail messages using graphical images (Abstract). The header and body of each e-mail are parsed to respectively extract information relating to the subject, sender, date, domain, and so forth, and keywords or phrases (Col. 6, lines 35-40 and 49-56). The parsed e-mails are identified based on combinations of various parameters and, after identification,  
20 e-mails of the same type are grouped together and sequenced by priority (Col. 6, lines 54-60). The e-mails are then displayed by a graphical output generator, which converts each e-mail into a graphical symbol, such as a button (Col. 6, lines 61-64). The graphical symbols for each group are selected based on a combination of colors, symbols, and letters (Col. 7, lines 2-5).

25 **B. Microsoft Outlook 2000 For Windows For Dummies (“Dyszel”)**

Dyszel discloses category and layout e-mail message grouping and display. Dyszel uses a Group By dialog box to group user selected listings. A grouped view shows the names of the columns that are used to create the group

view. Grouping is a way to manage all Outlook items, especially contacts. A user can flag contacts and create reminders. A reminder pops up on the appointed date and prompts the user to make a call (pages 84, 85, 156, and 158).

**C. U.S. Patent No. 6,170,011 (“Macleod Beck”)**

5 Macleod Beck discloses a method and apparatus for determining and initiating interaction directionally within a multimedia call center (MMCC) (Col. 1, lines 21-26). A campaign module in a MMCC has a programmable dynamic campaign module (DCM) that facilitates and monitors outbound campaigns (Col. 4, lines 52-55). Text-based e-mail threading is integrated with stored multimedia  
10 interactions (Col. 22, lines 45–48). The multimedia threading allows agents to access text data, such as e-mail, and cross-reference the data to recorded multimedia interactions that are displayed and played back (Col. 22, lines 10-15).

**D. Issue I**

A *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) has not been  
15 shown and the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 5, 7-9, 12, 14-17, 20, 22-28, 30-33, and 35 cannot stand.

**1. Legal Basis**

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the examiner has the burden of proving that (1) there is some suggestion or motivation, either in the  
20 references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or combine the reference teachings; (2) there is a reasonable expectation of success; and (3) the combined references teach or suggest all the claim limitations. MPEP § 2143. Failure to provide a suggestion or motivation to combine references cannot support a *prima facie* case  
25 of obviousness. MPEP § 2143.01.

**2. Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 23, 26-28, and 30 (Group I)  
Should Be Argued Separately**

Claim 1 warrants separate argument. Claim 1 defines a method for displaying an e-mail collection including a plurality of e-mail messages assigned

to one or more categories and subcategories, defining a display specification, specifying a plurality of category-specific arrangements, specifying a plurality of display-specific arrangements, specifying a plurality of layouts, and displaying each of the e-mail messages. Specific steps are not recited in the system claims of  
5 Group II. Moreover, the structure recited in the elements of the claims of Group II are untied to specific steps. Moreover, the specific stored information recited in the claims of Group III are untied to specific steps. Accordingly, Claim 1, and 2, 5, 7, 23, 26-28, and 30, dependent thereon, should be reviewed separately.

### 3. Group I Claims

10 Applicant traverses the rejection. The combination of the Raghunandan and Dyszel references fail to support a *prima facie* case of obviousness. The first prong of *prima facie* obviousness requires some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or combine the reference  
15 teachings. Initially, the examiner must show some teaching or suggestion to combine references that supports their use in combination. *See, Ashland Oil, Inc. v. Delta Resins & Refracs., Inc.*, 776 F.2d 281, 227 USPQ 657 (Fed. Cir. 1985). Such teaching or suggestion has not been shown.

Raghunandan teaches a system for analyzing e-mail content and  
20 prioritizing e-mail via graphical images. E-mail is received and parsed based on selected parameters, such as subject, user, sender, or keyword (Col. 7, lines 48-50). The parsed e-mails are displayed as graphical images, such as buttons, based on a configuration selected by the user (Col. 6, lines 61-65).

In contrast, Dyszel teaches a system to group and display Outlook items  
25 via categories, such as business name, state located, and primary phone number. Grouping is a way to manage all Outlook items, especially contacts. Reminders can be set to pop up at an appointed date and prompt the user to make a call to the desired contact (pages 84, 85, 156, and 158).

One of ordinary skill in the art would not find a suggestion or motivation  
30 to combine Raghunandan with Dyszel. "The mere fact that prior art may be modified in the manner suggested by the examiner does not make the

modification obvious unless the prior art *suggests* the desirability of the modification” (emphasis added). *In re Fritch*, 974 F.2d 1260 (Fed. Cir. 1992).

Raghunandan teaches identifying and responding to e-mail messages of greatest priority (Col. 1, lines 45-49). Dyszel teaches grouping e-mail to help the user find items of interest and not based on priority (page 158). Raghunandan also teaches a system that becomes more effective as a greater number of parameters to identify e-mails are selected (Col. 1, lines 66-67; Col. 7, lines 15-35). Dyszel teaches *away* from Raghunandan by teaching that grouping by too many categories will make using the list more difficult rather than easier to use (page 85). Finally, Raghunandan teaches a system to view as many e-mails on screen as possible to avoid time spent selecting and scrolling through messages (Col. 2, lines 3-5), while Dyszel teaches a system that may require scrolling to view the information sought (page 156).

Second, there would not be a reasonable expectation of success. The expectation of success must be founded in the prior art and not in the applicant’s disclosure. *In re O’Farrell*, 853 F.2d 894 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Raghunandan teaches identifying or prioritizing e-mails based on selected parameters and displaying those parameters as graphical images. Dyszel teaches managing e-mail messages by grouping them by categories, but without graphical images. More specifically, Raghunandan teaches displaying all e-mails as graphical symbols on a single screen, whereas Dyszel teaches organizing e-mails by categories that can require scrolling through a screen to see information of interest. Combining the teachings of Raghunandan with the teachings of Dyszel would thus provide displaying e-mail messages in graphical form, organized by categories, which could require scrolling to see all e-mails in the screen. However, having to scroll graphical images may lead to confusion or delay in responding to important e-mails. As a result, the combination of Raghunandan and Dyszel would not suggest to one of ordinary skill in the art that the combined process should be carried out or that the combined process would have a likelihood of success.

Finally, the combined Raghunandan and Dyszel references fail to teach or suggest all the claim limitations. Claim 1 recites a plurality of category-specific

arrangements of e-mail messages in differing levels of granularity that are specific to the categories and subcategories to which the e-mail messages are assigned, specifying a plurality of display-specific arrangements of e-mail messages in differing levels of granularity that are specific to the display to which the e-mail messages are assigned, and specifying a plurality of layouts of the category-specific arrangements and the display-specific arrangements that are specific to the display upon which the e-mail messages are displayed. Such limitations are neither taught nor suggested by the Raghunandan-Dyszel combination. The Raghunandan-Dyszel combination does not allow either display-specific arrangements in differing levels of granularity or a plurality of layouts of category-specific arrangements and display-specific arrangements that are specific to the display upon which the e-mail messages are displayed, per Claim 1. In short, the Raghunandan-Dyszel combination is applicable to only a single display using just one layout.

Claim 1 further recites displaying each of the e-mail messages in accordance with the display specification, using the category-specific arrangement and the display-specific arrangement for the category or subcategory to which the e-mail is assigned, and using the layout for the display upon which the e-mail message is displayed. Raghunandan discloses multiple types of e-mail classifications, including sender names, sender domain, e-mail subject, contained keywords, e-mail size, e-mail attachments, and date sent or received (Col. 8, lines 55-67). Dyszel permits specification of categories and shunting of messages into these categories. However, the Raghunandan-Dyszel combination fails to teach or suggest differing levels of granularity or a plurality of layouts of category-specific arrangements and display-specific arrangements that are specific to the display upon which the e-mail messages are displayed, per Claim 1.

Moreover, the Raghunandan-Dyszel combination teaches *away* from displaying e-mail in differing levels of granularity or a plurality of layouts of category-specific arrangements and display-specific arrangements that are specific to the display upon which the e-mail messages are displayed, per Claim 1. Raghunandan teaches displaying e-mail messages as graphical images to

organize and identify e-mails with the greatest priority, whereas Dyszel teaches sorting e-mails based on categories to better organize the e-mails. The graphical image display in Raghunandan is one-dimensional as e-mails are grouped by parameters parsed from the e-mail header and body. Raghunandan also teaches a system that is more effective as a greater number of parameters is selected, which leads to a greater number of buttons on an individual screen. The introduction of additional displays will not result in additional greater granularity of information displayed. Additional displays will only result in a greater number of graphical buttons displayed. Likewise, Dyszel teaches a one-dimensional e-mail display. E-mail is organized and displayed based on categories alone. Further, Dyszel teaches that grouping by an increasing number of categories will make using the system increasingly more difficult. Additional user displays will not result in greater granularity of information displayed. In combination, Raghunandan and Dyszel still teach a one-dimensional display of e-mail messages that will not add more granularity when displayed across multiple displays.

In contrast, Claim 1 defines an e-mail display operating over three display dimensions that allows multiple layers of category-specific, display-specific, and layout-specific dimensioning when adapted to multiple user displays. Each display has its own specific arrangement of e-mails by category, display, and layout. Thus, the three-dimensional e-mail display of category-specific, display-specific, and layout-specific dimensions would not be predictable to one skilled in the art, which would require looking beyond one-dimensional e-mail displays, as taught and suggested by both Raghunandan and Dyszel.

Thus, a *prima facie* for obviousness has not been shown with respect to Claim 1. Claims 2, 5, 7, 23 and 26-30 are dependent on Claim 1 and are patentable for the above-stated reasons, and as further distinguished by the limitations stated therein. As a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been shown, withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 1 and 2, 5, 7, 23 and 26-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

**4. Claims 8, 9, 12, 14, 15, 24, 31-33 and 35 (Group II) Should Be Argued Separately**

Claim 8 warrants separate argument. Claim 8 defines a computer controlled display system for displaying an e-mail collection including a plurality of e-mail messages assigned to one or more categories and subcategories that recites specific structural limitations such as a display specification, a display, and a processor. Analogous structural limitations are not recited in the claims of Group I and Group III. Moreover, the steps recited in the claims of Group I are untied to specific structure. Moreover, the specific stored information recited in the claims of Group III are untied to specific structure. Accordingly, Claim 8, and Claims 9, 12, 14, 15, 24, 31-33, and 35, dependent thereon, should be reviewed separately.

**5. Group II Claims**

Applicant traverses the rejection. The combination of the Raghunandan and Dyszel references fail to support a *prima facie* case of obviousness. The first prong of *prima facie* obviousness requires some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or combine the reference teachings. Initially, the examiner must show some teaching or suggestion to combine references that supports their use in combination. *See, Ashland Oil, Inc. v. Delta Resins & Refracs., Inc.*, 776 F.2d 281, 227 USPQ 657 (Fed. Cir. 1985). Such teaching or suggestion has not been shown.

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can be set to pop up at an appointed date and prompt the user to make a call to the desired contact (pages 84, 85, 156, and 158).

One of ordinary skill in the art would not find a suggestion or motivation to combine Raghunandan with Dyszel. “The mere fact that prior art may be  
5 modified in the manner suggested by the examiner does not make the modification obvious unless the prior art *suggests* the desirability of the modification” (emphasis added). *In re Fritch*, 974 F.2d 1260 (Fed. Cir. 1992). Raghunandan teaches identifying and responding to e-mail messages of greatest priority (Col. 1, lines 45-49). Dyszel teaches grouping e-mail to help the user find  
10 items of interest and not based on priority (page 158). Raghunandan also teaches a system that becomes more effective as a greater number of parameters to identify e-mails are selected (Col. 1, lines 66-67; Col. 7, lines 15-35). Dyszel teaches *away* from Raghunandan by teaching that grouping by too many categories will make using the list more difficult rather than easier to use (page 85). Finally,  
15 Raghunandan teaches a system to view as many e-mails on screen as possible to avoid time spent selecting and scrolling through messages (Col. 2, lines 3-5), while Dyszel teaches a system that may require scrolling to view the information sought (page 156).

Second, there would not be a reasonable expectation of success. The  
20 expectation of success must be founded in the prior art and not in the applicant’s disclosure. *In re O’Farrell*, 853 F.2d 894 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Raghunandan teaches identifying or prioritizing e-mails based on selected parameters and displaying those parameters as graphical images. Dyszel teaches managing e-mail messages by grouping them by categories, but without graphical images. More specifically,  
25 Raghunandan teaches displaying all e-mails as graphical symbols on a single screen, whereas Dyszel teaches organizing e-mails by categories that can require scrolling through a screen to see information of interest. Combining the teachings of Raghunandan with the teachings of Dyszel would thus provide displaying e-mail messages in graphical form, organized by categories, which could require  
30 scrolling to see all e-mails in the screen. However, having to scroll graphical images may lead to confusion or delay in responding to important e-mails. As a



result, the combination of Raghunandan and Dyszel would not suggest to one of ordinary skill in the art that the combined process should be carried out or that the combined process would have a likelihood of success.

Finally, the combined Raghunandan and Dyszel references fail to teach or suggest all the claim limitations. Claim 8 recites a plurality of category-specific arrangements of e-mail messages in differing levels of granularity that are specific to the categories and subcategories to which the e-mail messages are assigned, specifying a plurality of display-specific arrangements of e-mail messages in differing levels of granularity that are specific to the display to which the e-mail messages are assigned, and specifying a plurality of layouts of the category-specific arrangements and the display-specific arrangements that are specific to the display upon which the e-mail messages are displayed. Such limitations are neither taught nor suggested by the Raghunandan-Dyszel combination. The Raghunandan-Dyszel combination does not allow either display-specific arrangements in differing levels of granularity or a plurality of layouts of category-specific arrangements and display-specific arrangements that are specific to the display upon which the e-mail messages are displayed, per Claim 8. In short, the Raghunandan-Dyszel combination is applicable to only a single display using just one layout.

Claim 8 further recites a processor adapted to control displaying each of the e-mail messages in accordance with the display specification, using the category-specific arrangement and the display-specific arrangement for the category or subcategory to which the e-mail is assigned, and using the layout for the display upon which the e-mail message is displayed. Raghunandan discloses multiple types of e-mail classifications, including sender names, sender domain, e-mail subject, contained keywords, e-mail size, e-mail attachments, and date sent or received (Col. 8, lines 55-67). Dyszel permits specification of categories and shunting of messages into these categories. However, the Raghunandan-Dyszel combination fails to teach or suggest differing levels of granularity or a plurality of layouts of category-specific arrangements and display-specific arrangements that are specific to the display upon which the e-mail messages are displayed, per

Claim 8.

Moreover, the Raghunandan-Dyszel combination teaches *away* from displaying e-mail in differing levels of granularity or a plurality of layouts of category-specific arrangements and display-specific arrangements that are specific to the display upon which the e-mail messages are displayed, per Claim 8. Raghunandan teaches displaying e-mail messages as graphical images to organize and identify e-mails with the greatest priority, whereas Dyszel teaches sorting e-mails based on categories to better organize the e-mails. The graphical image display in Raghunandan is one-dimensional as e-mails are grouped by parameters parsed from the e-mail header and body. Raghunandan also teaches a system that is more effective as a greater number of parameters is selected, which leads to a greater number of buttons on an individual screen. The introduction of additional displays will not result in additional greater granularity of information displayed. Additional displays will only result in a greater number of graphical buttons displayed. Likewise, Dyszel teaches a one-dimensional e-mail display. E-mail is organized and displayed based on categories alone. Further, Dyszel teaches that grouping by an increasing number of categories will make using the system increasingly more difficult. Additional user displays will not result in greater granularity of information displayed. In combination, Raghunandan and Dyszel still teach a one-dimensional display of e-mail messages that will not add more granularity when displayed across multiple displays.

In contrast, Claim 8 defines an e-mail display operating over three display dimensions that allows multiple layers of category-specific, display-specific, and layout-specific dimensioning when adapted to multiple user displays. Each display has its own specific arrangement of e-mails by category, display, and layout. Thus, the three-dimensional e-mail display of category-specific, display-specific, and layout-specific dimensions would not be predictable to one skilled in the art, which would require looking beyond one-dimensional e-mail displays, as taught and suggested by both Raghunandan and Dyszel.

Thus, a *prima facie* for obviousness has not been shown with respect to Claim 8. Claims 9, 12-15, 24 and 31-35 are dependent on Claim 8 and are

patentable for the above-stated reasons, and as further distinguished by the limitations stated therein. As a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been shown, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 8 and 9, 12, 14, 15, 24, 31-33 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

5                                   **6. Claims 16, 17, 20, 22 and 25 (Group III)**  
  **Should Be Argued Separately**

          Claim 16 warrants separate argument. Claim 16 defines an information storage media including information that displays an e-mail collection including a plurality of e-mail messages assigned to one or more categories and subcategories  
10   that recites information such as a display specification and information that displays each of the e-mail messages according to the display specification. Specific stored information is not recited in Group I or Group II. Moreover, the steps recited in the claims of Group I are untied to specific stored information. Moreover, the devices recited in the claims of Group II are untied to specific  
15   stored information. Accordingly, Claim 16, and Claims 17, 20, 22, and 25, dependent thereon, should be reviewed separately.

**7. Group III Claims**

          Applicant traverses the rejection. The combination of the Raghunandan and Dyszel references fail to support a *prima facie* case of obviousness. The first  
20   prong of *prima facie* obviousness requires some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or combine the reference teachings. Initially, the examiner must show some teaching or suggestion to combine references that supports their use in combination. *See, Ashland Oil, Inc.*  
25   *v. Delta Resins & Refracs., Inc.*, 776 F.2d 281, 227 USPQ 657 (Fed. Cir. 1985). Such teaching or suggestion has not been shown.

          Raghunandan teaches a system for analyzing e-mail content and prioritizing e-mail via graphical images. E-mail is received and parsed based on selected parameters, such as subject, user, sender, or keyword (Col. 7, lines 48-  
30   50). The parsed e-mails are displayed as graphical images, such as buttons, based

on a configuration selected by the user (Col. 6, lines 61-65).

In contrast, Dyszel teaches a system to group and display Outlook items via categories, such as business name, state located, and primary phone number. Grouping is a way to manage all Outlook items, especially contacts. Reminders  
5 can be set to pop up at an appointed date and prompt the user to make a call to the desired contact (pages 84, 85, 156, and 158).

One of ordinary skill in the art would not find a suggestion or motivation to combine Raghunandan with Dyszel. “The mere fact that prior art may be modified in the manner suggested by the examiner does not make the  
10 modification obvious unless the prior art *suggests* the desirability of the modification” (emphasis added). *In re* Fritch, 974 F.2d 1260 (Fed. Cir. 1992). Raghunandan teaches identifying and responding to e-mail messages of greatest priority (Col. 1, lines 45-49). Dyszel teaches grouping e-mail to help the user find items of interest and not based on priority (page 158). Raghunandan also teaches a  
15 system that becomes more effective as a greater number of parameters to identify e-mails are selected (Col. 1, lines 66-67; Col. 7, lines 15-35). Dyszel teaches *away* from Raghunandan by teaching that grouping by too many categories will make using the list more difficult rather than easier to use (page 85). Finally, Raghunandan teaches a system to view as many e-mails on screen as possible to  
20 avoid time spent selecting and scrolling through messages (Col. 2, lines 3-5), while Dyszel teaches a system that may require scrolling to view the information sought (page 156).

Second, there would not be a reasonable expectation of success. The expectation of success must be founded in the prior art and not in the applicant’s  
25 disclosure. *In re* O’Farrell, 853 F.2d 894 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Raghunandan teaches identifying or prioritizing e-mails based on selected parameters and displaying those parameters as graphical images. Dyszel teaches managing e-mail messages by grouping them by categories, but without graphical images. More specifically, Raghunandan teaches displaying all e-mails as graphical symbols on a single  
30 screen, whereas Dyszel teaches organizing e-mails by categories that can require scrolling through a screen to see information of interest. Combining the teachings

of Raghunandan with the teachings of Dyszel would thus provide displaying e-mail messages in graphical form, organized by categories, which could require scrolling to see all e-mails in the screen. However, having to scroll graphical images may lead to confusion or delay in responding to important e-mails. As a  
5 result, the combination of Raghunandan and Dyszel would not suggest to one of ordinary skill in the art that the combined process should be carried out or that the combined process would have a likelihood of success.

Finally, the combined Raghunandan and Dyszel references fail to teach or suggest all the claim limitations. Claim 16 recites a plurality of category-specific  
10 arrangements of e-mail messages in differing levels of granularity that are specific to the categories and subcategories to which the e-mail messages are assigned, specifying a plurality of display-specific arrangements of e-mail messages in differing levels of granularity that are specific to the display to which the e-mail messages are assigned, and specifying a plurality of layouts of the category-  
15 specific arrangements and the display-specific arrangements that are specific to the display upon which the e-mail messages are displayed. Such limitations are neither taught nor suggested by the Raghunandan-Dyszel combination. The Raghunandan-Dyszel combination does not allow either display-specific arrangements in differing levels of granularity or a plurality of layouts of  
20 category-specific arrangements and display-specific arrangements that are specific to the display upon which the e-mail messages are displayed, per Claim 16. In short, the Raghunandan-Dyszel combination is applicable to only a single display using just one layout.

Claim 16 further recites information that displays each of the e-mail  
25 messages in accordance with the display specification, using the category-specific arrangement and the display-specific arrangement for the category or subcategory to which the e-mail is assigned, and using the layout for the display upon which the e-mail message is displayed. Raghunandan discloses multiple types of e-mail classifications, including sender names, sender domain, e-mail subject, contained  
30 keywords, e-mail size, e-mail attachments, and date sent or received (Col. 8, lines 55-67). Dyszel permits specification of categories and shunting of messages into

these categories. However, the Raghunandan-Dyszal combination fails to teach or suggest differing levels of granularity or a plurality of layouts of category-specific arrangements and display-specific arrangements that are specific to the display upon which the e-mail messages are displayed, per Claim 16.

5           Moreover, the Raghunandan-Dyszal combination teaches *away* from displaying e-mail in differing levels of granularity or a plurality of layouts of category-specific arrangements and display-specific arrangements that are specific to the display upon which the e-mail messages are displayed, per Claim 16. Raghunandan teaches displaying e-mail messages as graphical images to  
10   organize and identify e-mails with the greatest priority, whereas Dyszal teaches sorting e-mails based on categories to better organize the e-mails. The graphical image display in Raghunandan is one-dimensional as e-mails are grouped by parameters parsed from the e-mail header and body. Raghunandan also teaches a system that is more effective as a greater number of parameters is selected, which  
15   leads to a greater number of buttons on an individual screen. The introduction of additional displays will not result in additional greater granularity of information displayed. Additional displays will only result in a greater number of graphical buttons displayed. Likewise, Dyszal teaches a one-dimensional e-mail display. E-mail is organized and displayed based on categories alone. Further, Dyszal  
20   teaches that grouping by an increasing number of categories will make using the system increasingly more difficult. Additional user displays will not result in greater granularity of information displayed. In combination, Raghunandan and Dyszal still teach a one-dimensional display of e-mail messages that will not add more granularity when displayed across multiple displays.

25           In contrast, Claim 16 defines an e-mail display operating over three display dimensions that allows multiple layers of category-specific, display-specific, and layout-specific dimensioning when adapted to multiple user displays. Each display has its own specific arrangement of e-mails by category, display, and layout. Thus, the three-dimensional e-mail display of category-  
30   specific, display-specific, and layout-specific dimensions would not be predictable to one skilled in the art, which would require looking beyond one-

dimensional e-mail displays, as taught and suggested by both Raghunandan and Dyszel.

Thus, a *prima facie* for obviousness has not been shown with respect to Claim 16. Claims 17, 22 and 25 are dependent on Claim 8 and are patentable for  
5 the above-stated reasons, and as further distinguished by the limitations stated therein. As a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been shown, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 16 and 17, 20, 22, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

**E. Issue II**

10 A *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) has not been shown and the rejection of Claims 3, 4, 6, 10, 11, 13, 18, 19, 21, 29, and 34 cannot stand.

**1. Legal Basis**

The examiner has the burden of proving a *prima facie* case of  
15 obviousness. MPEP § 2143. Failure to provide a suggestion or motivation to combine references cannot support a *prima facie* case of obviousness. MPEP § 2143.01.

**2. Claims 3, 10, and 18**

Applicant traverses the rejection. The combination of the Macleod Beck,  
20 Raghunandan, and Dyszel references fail to support a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Initially, the examiner must show some teaching or suggestion to combine references that supports their use in combination. *See, Ashland Oil, Inc. v. Delta Resins & Refracs., Inc.*, 776 F.2d 281, 227 USPQ 657 (Fed. Cir. 1985). Such teaching or suggestion has not been shown.

25 Raghunandan teaches a system for analyzing e-mail content and prioritizing e-mail via graphical images. E-mail is received and parsed based on selected parameters, such as subject, user, sender, or keyword (Col. 7, lines 48-50). The parsed e-mails are displayed as graphical images, such as buttons, based on a configuration selected by the user (Col. 6, lines 61-65).

Dyszel teaches a system to group and display Outlook items via categories, such as business name, state located, and primary phone number. (pages 84, 85, 156, and 158).

5 Macleod Beck teaches a dynamic multimedia threading system. Text-based threads, such as e-mail, are linked with multimedia interactions (Col. 22, lines 10-14). A user interacts with the text thread and accesses media associated with the thread (Col. 22, lines 45-48).

One of ordinary skill in the art would not find a suggestion or motivation to combine Macleod Beck with Raghunandan and Dyszel. “The mere fact that  
10 prior art may be modified in the manner suggested by the examiner does not make the modification obvious unless the prior art suggests the desirability of the modification.” *In re Fritch*, 974 F.2d 1260 (Fed. Cir. 1992). Macleod Beck teaches a method of integrating multimedia with a text thread where text could include e-mail. Raghunandan and Dyszel teach improved forms of e-mail display.  
15 Neither Raghunandan nor Dyszel teach or suggest the processing or use of multimedia. Thus, no suggestion or motivation to combine Macleod Beck with Raghunandan and Dyszel has been shown, as there is no need taught or suggested by Raghunandan-Dyszel to bring in multimedia capabilities as taught by Macleod Beck. Although Macleod Beck, Raghunandan, and Dyszel each disclose e-mail,  
20 the disclosure of a common element alone is not enough to teach or suggest the desirability to combine Macleod Beck with Raghunandan and Dyszel.

Assuming *arguendo* that the Macleod Beck, Raghunandan, and Dyszel references could be successfully combined, the combined Macleod Beck, Raghunandan and Dyszel references still fail to teach or suggest all the claim  
25 limitations. Claim 3 recites e-mail messages in at least one of the plurality of categories and subcategories are encapsulated into threads, and that the top-level display of the entire e-mail collection includes one item from each thread. Similarly, Claim 10 recites e-mail messages in at least one of the plurality of categories and subcategories are encapsulated into threads, and that the top-level  
30 display of the entire e-mail collection includes one item from each thread. Similarly Claim 18 recites e-mail messages in at least one of the plurality of



categories and subcategories are encapsulated into threads, and that the top-level display of the entire e-mail collection includes one item from each thread. Such limitations are neither taught nor suggested by the Macleod Beck and Raghunandan-Dyszal combination. Macleod Beck teaches a dynamic multimedia  
5 threading wherein text is linked to multimedia. When combined, the Macleod Beck and Raghunandan-Dyszal combination does not allow static text-only threading, per Claim 3, Claim 10, and Claim 18.

Moreover, the Macleod Beck and Raghunandan-Dyszal combination teaches *away* from text-only threading. Macleod Beck teaches a multimedia  
10 thread as compared to prior threading techniques that are confined to text. Raghunandan does not explicitly teach email encapsulated into threads.

In contrast, Claim 3 teaches e-mail encapsulated into threads. Similarly, Claim 10 teaches e-mail encapsulated into threads. Similarly, Claim 18 teaches e-mail encapsulated into threads. Furthermore, the three-dimensional e-mail display  
15 of category-specific, display-specific, and layout-specific dimensions would not be predictable to one skilled in the art, which would require looking beyond one-dimensional e-mail displays, as taught and suggested by both Raghunandan and Dyszel in combination with Macleod Beck.

Thus, a *prima facie* for obviousness has not been shown with respect to  
20 Claim 3, Claim 10, and Claim 18. As a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been shown, withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 3, Claim 10, and Claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Furthermore, Claims 3, 4, 6, and 29 are dependent on Claim 1 and are patentable for the above-stated reasons, and as further distinguished by the  
25 limitations recited therein. Claims 10, 11, 13, and 34 are dependent on Claim 8 and are patentable for the above-stated reasons, and as further distinguished by the limitations recited therein. Claims 18, 19, and 21 are dependent on Claim 16 and are patentable for the above-stated reasons, and as further distinguished by the limitations recited therein. Accordingly, Raghunandan, Dyszel, and Macleod  
30 Beck references, taken as a whole, fail to teach or suggest the claimed subject matter of Claims 3, 4, 6, 10, 11, 13, 18, 19, 21, 29, and 34. Withdrawal of the

rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is requested.

In closing, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) cannot be sustained in view of the foregoing arguments and should be withdrawn. Appellant's undersigned attorney can be reached at (206)

5 381-3900.

10 Dated: September 18, 2007

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20 Appeal Brief

**8. CLAIMS APPENDIX**

1           1.       (previously presented): A method for displaying an e-mail  
2 collection, the e-mail collection including a plurality of e-mail messages assigned  
3 to one or more categories and subcategories, the method comprising:  
4           defining a display specification to specify a manner in which e-mail  
5 messages assigned into each of the categories and subcategories are to be  
6 displayed in a top-level representation, comprising each of:  
7                 specifying a plurality of category-specific arrangements of e-mail  
8 messages in differing levels of granularity that are specific to the categories and  
9 subcategories to which the e-mail messages are assigned;  
10                specifying a plurality of display-specific arrangements of e-mail  
11 messages in differing levels of granularity that are specific to the display to which  
12 the e-mail messages are assigned; and  
13                specifying a plurality of layouts of the category-specific  
14 arrangements and the display-specific arrangements that are specific to the display  
15 upon which the e-mail messages are displayed; and  
16           displaying each of the e-mail messages in accordance with the display  
17 specification using the category-specific arrangement and the display-specific  
18 arrangement for the category or subcategory to which the e-mail message is  
19 assigned, and using the layout for the display upon which the e-mail message is  
20 displayed.

1           2.       (previously presented): The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2           receiving a plurality of the display specifications from a user;  
3           storing the received display specifications;  
4           receiving a user selection of one of the plurality of stored display  
5 specifications; and  
6           displaying the e-mail collection in accordance with the user selected  
7 display specification.

1           3.       (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the display  
2 specification provides that the e-mail messages in at least one of the plurality of

3 categories and subcategories are encapsulated into threads, and that the top-level  
4 display of the entire e-mail collection includes one item from each thread.

1 4. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the display  
2 specification provides that the messages in at least one of the plurality of  
3 categories and subcategories are encapsulated in the corresponding category, and  
4 that the top-level display of the entire e-mail collection includes one item from the  
5 corresponding category.

1 5. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the display  
2 specification includes a plurality of user-defined rule-based categories, wherein at  
3 least one of the plurality of user-defined rule-based categories is nested within  
4 another of the plurality of user-defined rule-based categories, and wherein the  
5 nested user-defined rule-based category is displayed differently than the another  
6 of the plurality of user-defined rule-based categories.

1 6. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2 providing an editor window display which lists the plurality of categories  
3 and a plurality of message display alternatives for the top-level representation of  
4 the e-mail collection and each of the plurality of categories; and  
5 receiving and storing a user selection of one of the plurality of message  
6 display alternatives for at least one of the plurality of categories.

1 7. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, further  
2 comprising:  
3 providing at least one tool button on the top-level representation of the e-  
4 mail collection that is adapted to receive a user command to perform an operation  
5 on one or more messages associated with an identified item; and  
6 performing the operation on the one or more messages associated with the  
7 identified item in response to a user operation of the tool button.

1           8.       (previously presented): A computer controlled display system for  
2 displaying an e-mail collection, the e-mail collection including a plurality of e-  
3 mail messages assigned to one or more categories and subcategories, the system  
4 comprising:<sup>5</sup>

5           a display specification defined to specify a manner in which e-mail  
6 messages assigned into each of the categories and subcategories are to be  
7 displayed in a top-level representation, comprising each of:

8                   a plurality of category-specific arrangements of e-mail messages in  
9 differing levels of granularity that are specific to the categories and subcategories  
10 to which the e-mail messages are assigned;

11                   a plurality of display-specific arrangements of e-mail messages in  
12 differing levels of granularity that are specific to the display to which the e-mail  
13 messages are assigned; and

14                   a plurality of layouts of the category-specific arrangements and the  
15 display-specific arrangements that are specific to the display upon which the e-  
16 mail messages are displayed;

17           a display for presenting the e-mail messages on a viewing area of the  
18 display; and

19           a processor that is adapted to control the display to display each of the e-  
20 mail messages in accordance with the display specification using the category-  
21 specific arrangement and the display-specific arrangement for the category or  
22 subcategory to which the e-mail message is assigned, and using the layout for the  
23 display upon which the e-mail message is displayed.

1           9.       (previously presented): The system of claim 8, wherein the  
2 processor is further adapted to:

3           receive a plurality of the display specifications from a user;

4           store the received display specifications;

5           receive a user selection of one of the plurality of stored display  
6 specifications; and

7 display the e-mail collection in accordance with the user selected display  
8 specification.

1 10. (previously presented): The system of claim 8, wherein the display  
2 specification provides that the e-mail messages in at least one of the plurality of  
3 categories and subcategories are encapsulated into threads, and that the top-level  
4 display of the entire e-mail collection includes one item from each thread.

1 11. (previously presented): The system of claim 8, wherein the display  
2 specification provides that the messages in at least one of the plurality of  
3 categories and subcategories are encapsulated in the corresponding category, and  
4 that the top-level display of the entire e-mail collection includes one item from the  
5 corresponding category.

1 12. (previously presented): The system of claim 8, wherein the display  
2 specification includes a plurality of user-defined rule-based definitions of  
3 categories, wherein at least one of the plurality of user-defined rule-based  
4 categories is nested within another of the plurality of user-defined rule-based  
5 categories, and wherein the nested user-defined rule-based category is displayed  
6 differently than the another of the plurality of user-defined rule-based categories.

1 13. (previously presented): The system of claim 8, wherein the  
2 processor is further adapted:  
3 to provide an editor window display which lists the plurality of categories  
4 and a plurality of message display alternatives for the top-level representation of  
5 the e-mail collection and each of the plurality of categories; and  
6 to receive and store a user selection of one of the plurality of message  
7 display alternatives for at least one of the plurality of categories.

1 14. (previously presented): The system of claim 8, wherein the  
2 processor is further adapted:

3           to provide a tool button on the top-level representation of the e-mail  
4 collection that is adapted to receive a user command to delete messages associated  
5 with an identified item; and  
6           to delete the messages associated with the identified item in response to a  
7 user operation of the tool button.

1           15.   (previously presented): The system of claim 8, wherein the  
2 processor is further adapted:  
3           to receive a user command from at least one tool button on the top-level  
4 representation of the e-mail collection; and  
5           to perform the operation on the one or more messages associated with the  
6 identified item in response to a user operation of the tool button.

1           16.   (previously presented): An information storage media comprising  
2 information that displays an e-mail collection, the e-mail collection including a  
3 plurality of e-mail messages assigned to one or more categories and  
4 subcategories, the information comprising:  
5           a display specification to specify a manner in which e-mail messages  
6 assigned into each of the categories and subcategories are to be displayed in a top-  
7 level representation, comprising each of:  
8           a plurality of category-specific arrangements of e-mail messages in  
9 differing levels of granularity that are specific to the categories and subcategories  
10 to which the e-mail messages are assigned;  
11           a plurality of display-specific arrangements of e-mail messages in  
12 differing levels of granularity that are specific to the display to which the e-mail  
13 messages are assigned; and  
14           a plurality of layouts of the category-specific arrangements and the  
15 display-specific arrangements that are specific to the display upon which the e-  
16 mail messages are displayed; and  
17           information that displays each of the e-mail messages in accordance with  
18 the display specification using the category-specific arrangement and the display-

19 specific arrangement for the category or subcategory to which the e-mail message  
20 is assigned, and using the layout for the display upon which the e-mail message is  
21 displayed.

1 17. (previously presented): The media of claim 16, further comprising:  
2 information that receives a plurality of the display specifications from a  
3 user; information that stores the received display specifications;  
4 information that receives a user selection of one of the plurality of stored  
5 display specifications; and  
6 information that displays the e-mail collection, in accordance with the user  
7 selected display specification.

1 18. (previously presented): The media of claim 16, wherein the display  
2 specification provides that the e-mail messages in at least one of the plurality of  
3 categories and subcategories are encapsulated into threads, and that the top-level  
4 display of the entire e-mail collection includes one item from each thread.

1 19. (previously presented): The media of claim 16, wherein the display  
2 specification provides that the messages in at least one of the plurality of  
3 categories and subcategories are encapsulated in the corresponding category, and  
4 that the top-level display of the entire e-mail collection includes one item from the  
5 corresponding category.

1 20. (previously presented): The media of claim 16, wherein the  
2 display specification includes a plurality of user-defined rule-based categories,  
3 wherein at least one of the plurality of user-defined rule-based categories is nested  
4 within another of the plurality of user-defined rule-based categories, and wherein  
5 the nested user-defined rule-based category is displayed differently than the  
6 another of the plurality of user-defined rule-based categories.

1 21. (previously presented): The media of claim 16, further comprising:



2 information that provides an editor window display which lists the  
3 plurality of categories and a plurality of message display alternatives for the top-  
4 level representation of the e-mail collection and each of the plurality of  
5 categories; and

6 information that receives and stores a user selection of one of the plurality  
7 of message display alternatives for at least one of the plurality of categories.

1 22. (previously presented): The media of claim 16, further comprising  
2 information that:

3 receives a user command via at least one tool button on the top-level  
4 representation of the e-mail collection that is adapted to receive a user command  
5 to perform an operation on one or more messages associated with an identified  
6 item; and

7 performs the operation on the one or more messages associated with the  
8 identified item in response to a user operation of the tool button.

1 23. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the  
2 messages within the categories and subcategories may be displayed as at least two  
3 messages, threads, and groups.

1 24. (previously presented): The system of claim 8, wherein the  
2 messages within the categories and subcategories may be displayed as at least two  
3 messages, threads, and groups.

1 25. (previously presented): The media of claim 16, wherein the  
2 wherein the messages within the categories and subcategories may be displayed  
3 as at least two messages, threads, and groups.

1 26. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the display  
2 specification provides that each of the messages in at least one of the plurality of  
3 categories and subcategories are displayed separately in the top-level display of  
4 the entire e-mail collection.

1           27.     (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the display  
2 specification provides that at least one of the plurality of categories and  
3 subcategories, and each of the messages categorized therein, is to be omitted from  
4 the top-level display of the entire e-mail collection.

1           28.     (previously presented): The method of claim 7, further comprising:  
2 supplying a tool button associated with an item requesting expansion of  
3 the item; and  
4 if the expansion is requested, differentially performing the expansion of  
5 the item.

1           29.     (previously presented): The method of claim 28, further  
2 comprising expanding an item representing an entire category or subcategory on  
3 the top-level representation of the e-mail collection by displaying a list of threads  
4 whose messages are categorized within the category or subcategory selected for  
5 expansion.

1           30.     (previously presented): The method of claim 28, further  
2 comprising expanding an item representing an individual thread on the top-level  
3 representation of the e-mail collection by displaying the messages associated with  
4 the selected thread as a single document represented by a tree-like thread structure  
5 including at least one initial part of each of the messages.

1           31.     (previously presented): The system of claim 8, wherein the display  
2 specification provides that each of the messages in at least one of the plurality of  
3 categories and subcategories are displayed separately in the top-level display of  
4 the entire e-mail collection.

1           32.     (previously presented): The system of claim 8, wherein the display  
2 specification provides that at least one of the plurality of categories and  
3 subcategories, and each of the messages categorized therein, is to be omitted from  
4 the top-level display of the entire e-mail collection.

1           33.     (previously presented): The method of claim 15, wherein the  
2 processor is further adapted:  
3           to receive a user command from a tool button associated with an item  
4 requesting expansion of the item; and  
5           if the expansion is requested, to differentially perform the expansion of the  
6 item.

1           34.     (previously presented): The method of claim 33, wherein the  
2 processor is further adapted to expand an item representing an entire category or  
3 subcategory on the top-level representation of the e-mail collection by displaying  
4 a list of threads whose messages are categorized within the category or  
5 subcategory selected for expansion.

1           35.     (previously presented): The method of claim 33, wherein the  
2 processor is further adapted to expand an item representing an individual thread  
3 on the top-level representation of the e-mail collection by displaying the messages  
4 associated with the selected thread as a single document represented by a tree-like  
5 thread structure including at least one initial part of each of the messages.

**9. EVIDENCE APPENDIX**

None.

**10. RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX**

None.